

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

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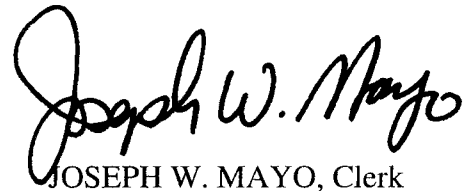
H.P. 1542

House of Representatives, April 14, 1999

**An Act Concerning the Formation of the Central Maine Regional Public  
Safety Communication Center.**

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Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice suggested and ordered printed.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative COLWELL of Gardiner.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: COWGER of Hallowell, NUTTING of Oakland.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

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**Sec. 1. Communication center established.** The Central Maine Regional Public Safety Communication Center, referred to in this Act as the "center," is established to provide emergency communication services to participating state, county and municipal public safety agencies in the central Maine region. Original participating agencies and municipalities are the Maine State Police, the Kennebec County Sheriff's Office and the municipalities of Gardiner, Augusta, Waterville, Winslow and Oakland.

**Sec. 2. Governance.** The center is governed by the following provisions.

**1. Governing council.** The center operates under a council consisting of one voting member from each municipality that uses the services of the center. The governing council must meet at least twice annually to establish center policies and to provide guidance to the center's board of directors. The council may override any decision of the board of directors by calling a special meeting of the council at the request of 60% of the council's membership and approving by a 2/3 majority a motion to override.

**2. Board of directors.** The board of directors initially consists of representatives from the governmental units that participated in the center's feasibility and implementation studies and 2 at-large members selected by the council from the municipalities served by the dispatch system that preceded the establishment of the center. Four members, one from each public safety service, serve as ex officio members but may not vote on financial matters.

The original board of directors operates for a period not to exceed three years from the date of the center's inception. At the end of that period, the terms of the initial board terminate and a permanent board of directors must be established. The permanent board, members of which serve at the pleasure of their appointing authorities, consists of representatives of:

- A. The Maine State Police, appointed by the Chief of the Maine State Police;
- B. The Kennebec County Sheriff's Office, appointed by the Sheriff of Kennebec County;
- C. Each of the 5 largest municipalities in the service area, appointed by their municipal governing boards. Each municipal representative must be a member of and serve as an elected official on the appointing board;

2 D. Two participating municipalities appointed by the  
governing council as at-large members for 2-year terms.  
4 At-large members may be reelected;

6 E. Each of the 4 public safety services: fire, police,  
emergency medical services and ancillary services. The  
8 board has the authority to call a meeting for election of  
members representing the 4 public safety services. Each  
10 service shall annually elect an individual to represent that  
service; and

12 F. Any governmental entity that formally joins the center  
14 as a member by closing an existing dispatch operation that  
serves a population of more than 5,000.

16 **3. Duties of the board of directors.** The board of  
18 directors ensures that the center is operated in accordance with  
the policies and recommendations established by the governing  
20 council. Specifically, the board of directors shall:

22 A. Hire and supervise the work of the director;

24 B. Set general policy;

26 C. Determine and approve the center's operational and  
capital budgets;

28 D. Approve all budgets, capital expenditures and payment of  
30 invoices and authorize all other financial transactions  
except as provided in subsection 1;

32 E. Establish bylaws and operating procedures for the  
34 center; and

36 F. Approve job descriptions for staff of the center.

38 **Sec. 3. Director.** The director of the center is appointed by  
and serves at the pleasure of the board of directors. The  
40 director is the chief administrator of the center and is  
responsible for overall management, including budget preparation  
42 and policy development, and implementation of both budget and  
policies upon approval of the board.

44 **Sec. 4. Staff.** Staff of the center must be chosen from among  
46 dispatchers employed by the participating agencies and  
municipalities. Seniority in a previous dispatching position is  
48 not a basis for employment by the center. Those employed by the  
center have seniority from the date of hire at the center.  
50 Seniority on the same date of hire is determined alphabetically  
by last name. Pay must be based on the highest prevailing scale  
52 among participating entities. Number of years of cumulative

2 service in emergency dispatch determines placement on the pay  
scale.

4 **Sec. 5. Operational funding; cost distribution method; in-kind**  
5 **contributions.** The center must be operated on a shared-funding  
6 basis, with each participating agency and municipality  
7 contributing a portion of the operational funding on a continuing  
8 basis. The governing council shall distribute costs on the basis  
9 of a formula that considers both fixed and variable costs.  
10 In-kind contributions, including those specific services for the  
11 system undertaken by participating entities, must be calculated  
12 and included in the cost distribution formula.

14 **Sec. 6. Capital replacement fund.** The board of directors must  
15 establish and maintain a capital replacement fund to ensure the  
16 continued technological viability of the system. Each  
17 participating entity must contribute to this fund in a manner  
18 similar to the cost distribution system established under  
19 subsection 5.

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## SUMMARY

24 This bill establishes the Central Maine Regional Public  
25 Safety Communication Center to provide emergency communication  
26 services to participating state, county and municipal entities.  
27 The bill establishes a governing council and a board of directors  
28 to establish policy and to provide administrative oversight.